

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 10, 2011

2011 R.A.V.E. (RECOGNIZING ARTS VAUGHAN EXCELLENCE) AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

1. That the individuals/groups/organizations as identified in the confidential memorandum in Attachment 1 be approved to receive a 2011 R.A.V.E. Award (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) in the listed disciplines/categories.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of the 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards and the affiliated City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education program will be covered through corporate sponsorship funds raised from past and 2011 corporate donations, in particular funds distributed to financially assist students pursuing post-secondary arts education.. Some administration and reception costs will be paid through the approved 2011 Cultural Services Budget.

Communications Plan

The 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards is promoted through the City's website, Recreation Guide, City Page and arts/culture related websites in addition to invitations being sent to award recipients, nominators, sponsors and other dignitaries. The award recipients will be recognized publically at a formal reception to be hosted at City Hall on the evening of June 23, 2011.

A formal "call out" to the public for R.A.V.E. Awards nominations took place between October 2010 and March 2011. The call for nominations was advertised on the City's website, the City Page and a news release was sent out and covered by local papers. Nomination packages were also sent out to a wide range of individuals/organizations on the City's arts database and distributed to all City facilities, including libraries

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and approve the list of nominees recommended by the Ad Hoc 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards Nominations Adjudication Committee to receive 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards.

Background - Analysis and Options

In an effort to enhance the profile and build capacity for the arts in Vaughan, the R.A.V.E. Awards (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) program was developed and approved by Council in November 2008. The program is a vehicle to recognize the significant contributions of businesses, organizations and individuals who help develop the arts in the City. This yearly award program highlights cultural achievements and acknowledges the value of such contributions in

our community. Also, as a direct result of the generous sponsorship funds and in-kind donations raised for the R.A.V.E. Awards, monies raised go towards supporting the *City of Vaughan Award for Higher Arts Education*, a program established to financially assist the emerging talent of Vaughan students who are pursuing post-secondary education in the arts. Nominations for the Awards for Higher Arts Education will be presented to Council at a future Council meeting.

A formal "call out" to the public for R.A.V.E. Awards nominations took place between October 2010 and March 2011. The call for nominations was advertised on the City's website, the City Page and a news release was sent out and covered by local papers. Nomination packages were also sent out to a wide range of individuals/organizations on the City's arts database and distributed to all City facilities, including libraries. As a result, 17 nominations were received and reviewed by the Ad Hoc 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards Nominations Adjudication Committee at their meeting of April 13, 2011. The Ad Hoc Committee was made up of City staff, Council members and a volunteer citizen. The adjudication team was composed of members with experience and expertise in the visual, performing and literary arts.

Discipline Categories and Criteria

Nominations were accepted in the following three art disciplines:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Literary Arts

Within each art discipline, nominations were submitted in any one of the following categories:

- Patron of the Arts
Honours a person, business or organization demonstrating an on-going commitment to the arts in the City of Vaughan through innovative, community or financial support of artistic activity.
- Art Educator/Mentor
Recognizes an artist who has made an outstanding contribution to art education in the City of Vaughan.
- Practicing Artist
Awarded to an emerging or established artist who has achieved a high degree of artistic excellence, has earned significant recognition for his/her work and has had a positive impact on the artistic landscape of the City of Vaughan.
- Rising Star
Acknowledges the emerging talent of an emerging artist who has earned significant recognition within the academic and/or arts community and shows continued promise of achieving a high degree of artistic excellence.

Nominations in each relevant category were evaluated on the following merits:

- Dedication to the Arts
- Artistic Creativity
- Artistic Quality
- Leadership or Innovation
- Artistic Recognition/Achievement
- Community Impact

The 2011 R.A.V.E Awards will be presented to this year's recipients at a formal reception hosted at City Hall on June 23, 2011.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

The 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) provide a formal vehicle for Council to recognize excellence in the visual, performing and literary arts in the categories of Patron of the Arts, Arts Educator/Mentor, Practicing Artist and Rising Star.

The award program highlights the significant contributions of businesses, organizations and individuals who help develop the arts in the City and supports the Creative Together Master Plan. The 2011 R.A.V.E. Awards nominees being recommended this year represent some of the most talented artists and philanthropic supporters of the arts in our community. Endorsing these nominations will acknowledge the value of their contributions to the artistic landscape of Vaughan.

Attachments

1. Confidential Memorandum (Members of Council Only)

Report Prepared By

Mary Reali, Director of Recreation and Culture, ext. 8234
Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, ext. 8139
Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Arts Coordinator, ext 8288

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services